(b) to (d) As far as the schools run by the Central Government are concerned, improvement is a continuous process and is attended to from time to time as when the need arises. However, most schools come under the purview of State Governments and it is for them to provide required facilities.

Teaching through FM radio

1252. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to use FM radio for teaching;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme, by when it is likely to be introduced; and

(c) the universities and the school education boards which have shown interest and are likely to benefit from this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has launched Gyan Vani, a 'Radio Co-operative' devoted exclusively to education and community development. The University has so far commissioned 17 FM Radio Stations at Bhopal, Coimbatore, Vishakhapatanam, Lucknow, Mumbai, Allahabad, Bangalore, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Varanasi, Shillong, Guwahati, Raipur, Hyderabad, Jabalpur, and Mysore. These inter-active participatory educational programmes include information relevant to students of pre-primary, primary, secondary and higher secondary classes, as well as enrichment programmes to build environmental awareness, women's empowerment, legal literacy, professional education and science education. These are being operated in collaboration with State Open Universities and other partner institutions.

(c) According to the information furnished by the IGNOU, following insitutions are benefiting under this scheme:-

(i) Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, (ii) School of Distance Education, Andhra Pradesh, Visakhapatnam, (iii) GRD College of Science, Coimbatore, (iv) NIT, Allahabad, (v) Saurashtra University, Rajkot, (vi) S.N.D.T. University, Mumbai, (vii) Netaji Subhash Open University, Kolkata, (viii) Madhya Pradesh Bhoj (Open) University, Bhopal and (ix) Karnataka State open University, Mysore.